IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A notebook computer with an input/output (I/O) physical user interface comprising:

a base containing a keyboard for said notebook computer, wherein said base has an extended portion beyond said keyboard creating a widened keyboard base;

a widened display, said widened display having a widened I/O display area corresponding to said widened keyboard base, said widened display having a width substantially equal to a width of said widened keyboard base;

an I/O device area disposed within said extended portion of said widened keyboard base; and

an interface signal connection means mounted within said I/O device area, said interface signal connection means operable to couple signals from said notebook computer to an I/O device.

2. (Currently amended) The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said I/O device area is recessed below a surface of said ~~I/O device area~~ extended portion of said widened keyboard base, said recessed I/O device area operable to receive said I/O device.

3. (Original) The notebook computer of claim 2, wherein said interface signal connection means is disposed within said recessed I/O device area.

4. (Currently amended) The notebook computer of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein an interface connection interposer is disposed between said interface signal connection means and said I/O device.

5. (Original) The notebook computer of claim 4, wherein said interface connection interposer is disposed within said recessed I/O device area.

6. (Currently Amended) The notebook computer of claim 4, wherein said interface connection interposer is operable to compensate for both mechanical and signal routing differences between said ~~universal~~ interface signal connection means, said recessed I/O area and said I/O device.

7. (Original) The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said widened I/O display area is used to display operational data relative to operation of said I/O device when said I/O device is sending or receiving signals to said notebook computer.

8. (Original) (The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said notebook computer is operable to execute first communication software instructions, said first communication software instructions controlling communication between said notebook computer and said I/O device.

9. (Original) The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is operable to execute second communication software instructions, said second communication software instructions controlling communication between said notebook computer and said I/O device.

10. (Original) The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said I/O device has functionality wholly separate from any communication signaling or connection with said notebook computer.

11. (Original) A method of interfacing a I/O device to a notebook computer, comprising the steps of:

providing said notebook computer with a widened display and a widened keyboard base, said widened keyboard base having an I/O device area;

providing a signal connection means within said I/O device area;

coupling signals from said I/O device to I/O circuitry in said notebook computer, said I/O circuitry operable to couple signals from said I/O device to a central processing unit (CPU) in said notebook computer;

activating communication software, said communication software operable to control communication between said CPU and said I/O device; and

activating display software, said display software operable to execute instructions directing the display of input or output data relevant to said I/O device in a widened portion of said widened display.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of operating said notebook computer and said I/O device together in response to user commands entered via said notebook computer or via said I/O device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said widened display has a width substantially equal to a width of said widened keyboard base.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said I/O device has functionality wholly separate from any communication signaling or connection with said notebook computer.